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GB 2292762 A US 4288030 A

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(54) Inflatable sports playmate

(57) An inflatable sports playmate which has PVC body 1 inflated via port 2, moulded to ballast tube 3 via weighted sandbag 4. A printed sporting image 5 appears on body. Device is lightweight and durable and is readily inflatable / deflatable. The flexible body absorbs impact and presents no injury/damage risks and is designed to shift with contact and return to original position. It is a training aid for sporting activities which provides realism due to its represented design. Simulates an opponent or teammate. Device may be used indoors or outdoors in all weather or surface conditions.

Fig. 1

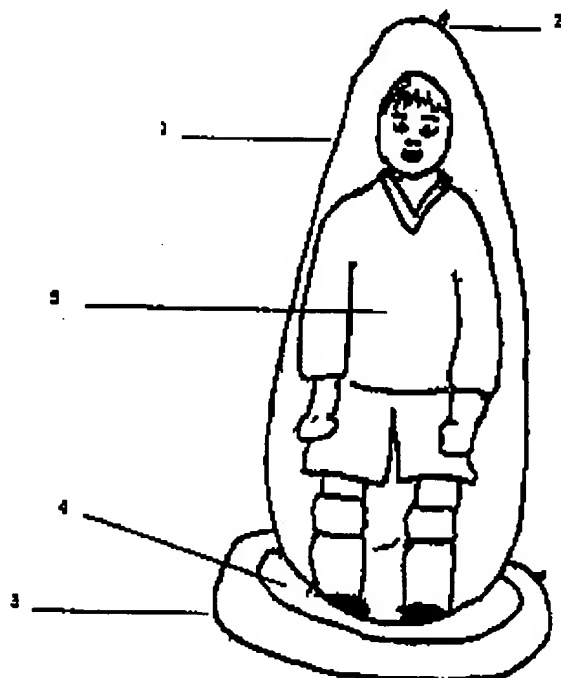


Fig. 1

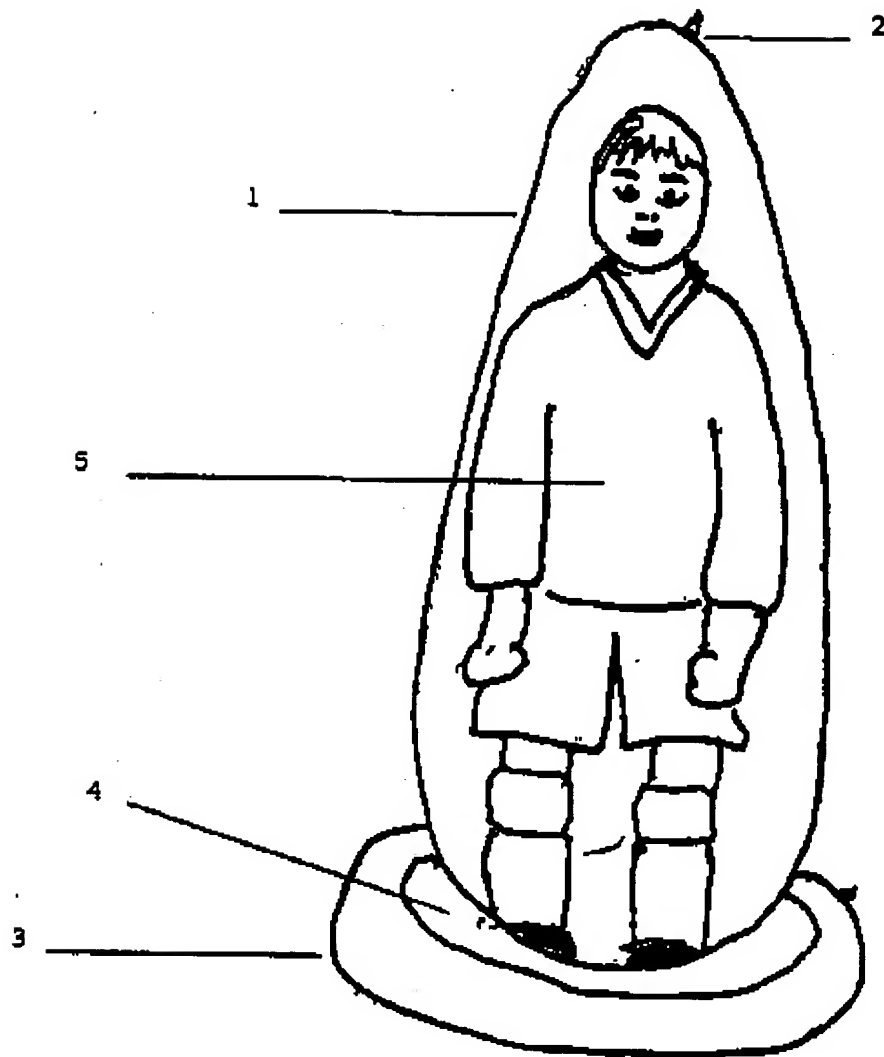


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

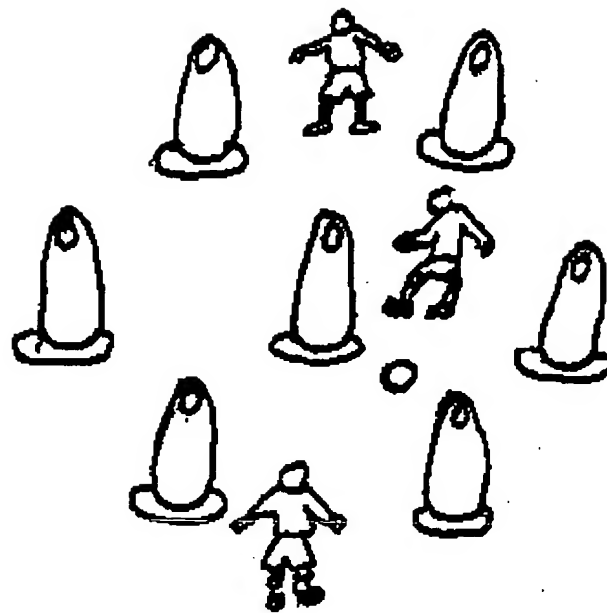


Fig. 4

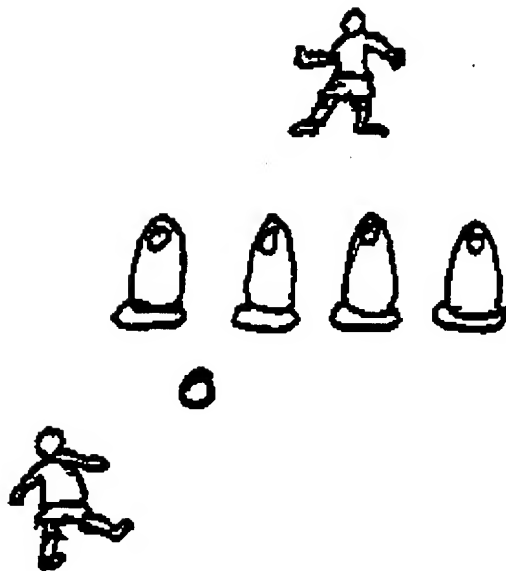


Fig. 5



Fig. 6



INFLATABLE SPORTS PLAYMATE

This invention relates to an inflatable PVC sports playmate.

Plastic articles such as cones have been widely used in sport to assist coaching and training exercises by simulating opponents.

This invention seeks to enhance enjoyment and safety during such activities by providing a simple, inanimate device representing an opponent or teammate by including an impression of human features to add realism.

The invention is comprised of an egg-shaped PVC body which is inflatable and is moulded at it's base to a ring weighted with ballast of sand. The aim is to allow the inflated body to stand erect in the secure base which can then be positioned for appropriate training use. Players or apparatus (e.g. footballs etc), may strike the flexible body in the course of the exercise, and the body is so designed as to absorb the shock of collision without incurring risk of injury or damage. The buoyant body will shift during impact but due to it's construction, will return to the original position. For realism, a printed sporting image will be appended to the body.

A specific embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawing in which :-

Figure 1 shows in perspective the inflated device ready for use.

Figure 2 shows the component parts exploded - body, ballast, base.

Figure 3 shows use of the device as a soccer training aid.

Figure 4 shows an alternative soccer training facility.

Figure 5 shows an appropriate use as a training aid for Rugby or American Football.

Figure 6 shows use as an aid for Martial Arts.

Referring to the drawing, the inflatable sports playmate comprises of PVC body 1 with inflation port 2. The body is moulded to a ballast tube at base 3 which is internally weighted with sandbag 4. A printed sporting image is appended to front of body 5.

The device is inflated or deflated within minutes using conventional means of inflation -footpump, pyhsical exhalation etc.

The device is lightweight and portable. It may be used for both indoor and outdoor activity and in all weather conditions or on any surface.

CLAIMS

1. An inflatable sports playmate comprising of an egg-shaped air-filled PVC body moulded to ballast ring at base containing sandbag. Designed to stand erect and to withstand physical contact by participants or appropriate sporting apparatus. Device is flexible and durable, designed to absorb shock without risk of injury or damage. Designed to shift during impact but return to original position. Usable indoors or outdoors in all weathers or surfaces.
2. An inflatable sports playmate as claimed in Claim 1 where a printed image of a sportsperson will be appended to the body to enhance realism by simulation of an opponent or teammate.
3. An inflatable sports playmate substantially described herein with reference to Figures 1 - 6 of the accompanying drawing.



Application No: GB 9701791.7
Claims searched: 1 - 3

Examiner: Roger Casling
Date of search: 16 April 1997

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.O): A6M(MBD), A6S

Int Cl (Ed.6): A63B, A63H

Other: Online: WPI

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	GB 2282762 A (KUO)	1
A	US 4268030 (RICHARDS)	1

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step
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